

## **Appleby Archaeology Group**

Notes of The Annual General Meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group which took place on Tuesday January 12<sup>th</sup> 2010 in the Supper Room, Market Hall, Appleby at 7pm.

### Present

Committee members 7

Members of the group 20-25

Richard Stevens Chairman  
Mike Godfrey Treasurer  
Phyllis Rouston Secretary  
Martin Joyce Newsletter Editor  
Tony Greenwood Publicity Officer  
Martin Railton Fieldwork/Research  
Liz Hawkins Membership Secretary

### Apologies for Absence

Margaret Albion, Carol Dougherty, Heather Edwards, Peter and Jenny McWilliam, Maureen Moore, Tricia Shaw

### Notes of the last AGM 13/01/2009

The notes had been circulated to all members with the winter Newsletter.  
The minutes were agreed a correct record.

### 1/2010 Matters arising from the notes

04/2009 Martin Joyce is now the third signatory for cheques.

### 2/2010 Chairman's Report

The chairman welcomed and thanked the membership for their continuing support and enthusiasm in what had been another good year. The evening talks had been well attended as had the summer outings and membership remains steady at around 60 with renewal due this month. The members of the committee were thanked for their unswerving support.

The second phase of the excavation at Brackenber Moor, again kindly funded by the Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society, had been concluded in July 2009. The committee are now considering further fieldwork at Brackenber Moor and will keep the membership informed.

Our third conference Medieval Life in the Eden Valley was a great success and very well supported by the membership. Over a hundred delegates attended and the group had made a small profit. The committee has received many messages of thanks and appreciation for staging the event. The speakers were full of praise and seemed to have enjoyed playing their part in the event. One disappointment is that, for reasons beyond the control of the committee, a full set of proceedings will not be published this time. It is hoped that some background information can be made available for members. The chairman apologised for the disappointment that this may cause and concluded by promising that a properly working audio system would be made available for future events.

### 3/2010 Secretary's Report

The secretary summarised the years activities

Programme:- the year started with the Members' Evening. Martin Railton spoke on Phase One of the excavations at Brakenber and this was followed by John and Anne Walton who transported us to the sunshine spoke on Turnpikes and Milestones of Cumbria and Jamie Lund spoke about a landscape survey of Buttermere and Loweswater. Tricia Shaw concluded the spring season with a talk The Bronze Age in Cumbria- Unearthed when she spoke on an excavation by North Pennines Archaeology in the west of the county. The Autumn season had its problems. The September speaker cancelled at very short notice due to a house move but two of her colleagues filled the gap and spoke on What Plants Can Tell Us About the Past. A topic not previously touched on was the subject of the November talk when Sheena Gemmel introduced the group to the enigmatic world of The Picts. Regrettably the December talk was again cancelled at very short notice due to illness.

Summer Events:- the first was an evening walk, led by Martin Joyce, to Towtop Kirk above Bampton and on to a small cairn on Rough Hill. The second was the rearranged walk with Frank Geicco to Scordale Mines. Paul Frodsham archaeologist for North Pennines AONB who had joined that walk pointed out aspects of a Bronze Age agricultural landscape. The third was a visit to Lammerside and Wharton Hall led by Erik Matthews, who, who brought the feuding of the Medieval family's to life

The Fieldwork:- two days surveying were completed at the end of March and phase 2 of excavation on Brackenber Moor was undertaken.

Committee:- quarterly meetings were held to plan programmes and activities and to monitor the finances. Extra meetings were arranged to plan the conference after hearing that the grant application had failed.

Communications:- the web site is well established and contributed to the success of the conference many applicants had downloaded their forms. Reports of all field work and talks are published as well as the programme. A big thank you to Martin Joyce for the work he has put in to make it such a success.

The Newsletter always keeps members informed and entertained and any information the secretary receives, about conferences field walking etc is sent to members on the email list.

#### **4/2010 Treasurer's Report**

1.) Copies of the Financial Report for the year 2009 were tabled. The accounts had been audited by Peter Bridge and an audited report is available for inspection.

The opening balance for 2009 was £3899.77 The closing balance was £1007.81. The treasurer explained details of the accounts.

The chairman asked the meeting if they had any questions for the treasurer. John Walton asked for clarification regarding income from grants for 2009. This was given. The chairman asked those present to approve the report. Acceptance of the report was moved by David Kay, seconded by Barbara Blenkinship and approved by the meeting.

2.) Increase in Subscription The chairman had had approval, in principle from the members at the November meeting to raise the membership fees to £10 and £18 for joint membership. Formal approval was sought. The treasurer proposed the change which was seconded by Ray Wager and approved by a show of hands.

#### **5/2010 Election of Officers**

The chairman advised that after the 2009 AGM Tony Greenwood had agreed to become Publicity Officer and sought the approval of the meeting for this appointment. This was approved. He continued by saying that he had two further years to serve and that the role of vice chairman remains vacant. The other officers are elected annually, and were offering themselves for re election, if there are no nominations from the floor. There were no nominations for any committee member or for the vice chairman. The committee was re-elected. The chairman conclude by saying that the committee would benefit from another member and he extended an invitation to any member who might be interested to come to a committee meeting to see how the committee functions.

#### **6/2010 Fieldwork Research Brakenber Moor**

Martin Railton spoke of the work completed this year. In spring geophysical surveys were undertaken at Coupland Beck and on the golf course. The first identified a ditched rectilinear enclosure, the second a possible Roman signal station which could be of national importance. Both merit further investigation and the potential for this will be explored and funding sought once a proposal has been agreed.

In July, phase 2 of the excavation at the Druidical Judgment seat was undertaken when the 4<sup>th</sup> trench was dug exposing part of the entrance to the enclosure, the end of the ditch and a full section through the ditch.

Environmental samples which have been examined contained carbonised seeds of emmer wheat, oats and barley. It is planned to have these carbon dated when funds are available. A number of flints found suggest Bronze Age activity and a fragment of pottery has been examined and identified as Neolithic which indicates even earlier occupation of the site.

Full reports of the fieldwork are on the website.

#### **7/2100 ANOB**

Rosina Mansefield proposed a vote of thanks the committee for their ongoing activities and for arranging an excellent conference.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Phyllis Rouston January 2010